



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

Purchased
27/6/29

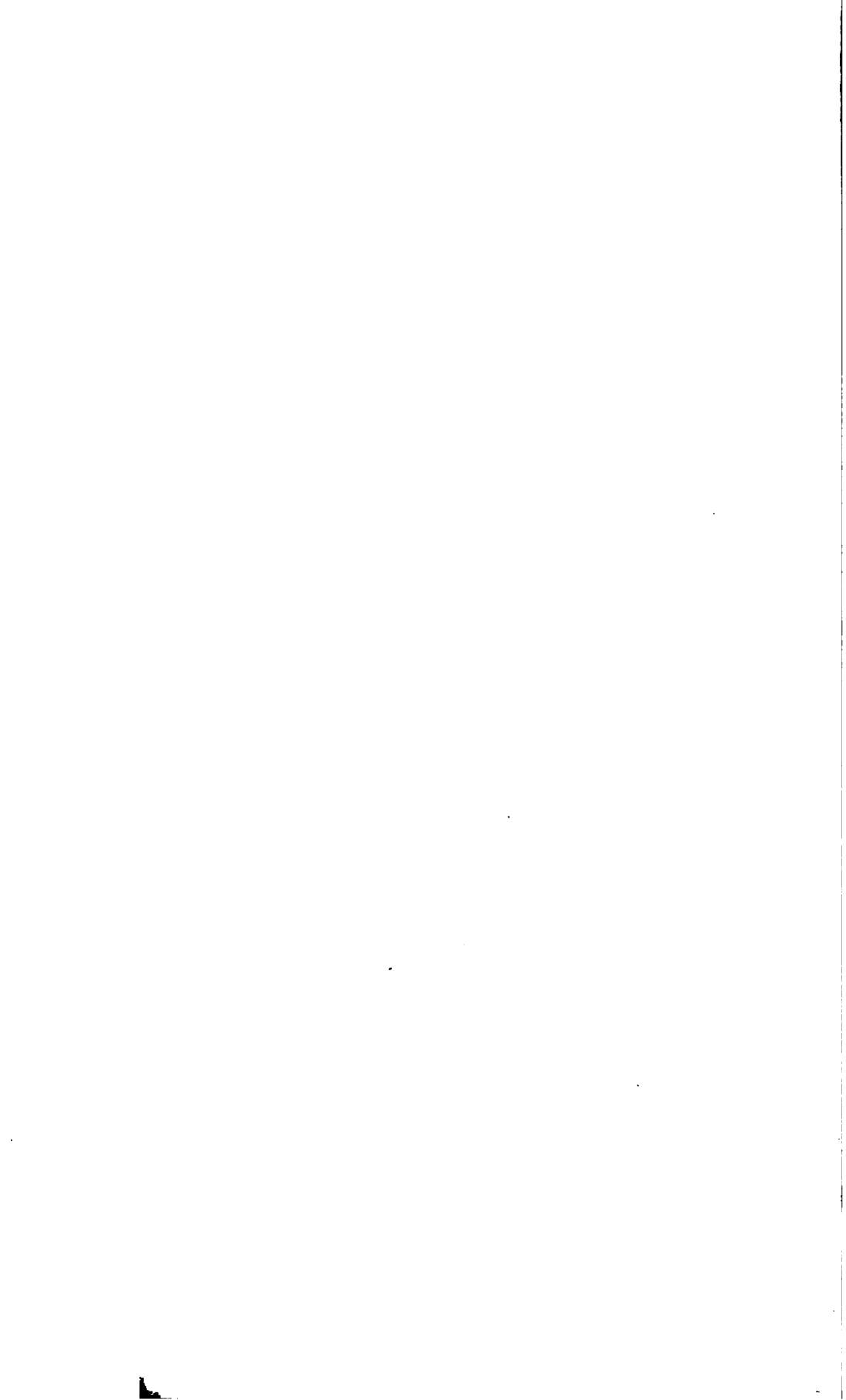
207



J. C. Moulton.

S 916 . r 39

916 . 17 r. 12



17
1798

the British Museum
by the Rev. John W. Hall
to the British Museum

B O R N E O.

R E M A R K S

ON A RECENT

“NAVAL EXECUTION.”





Know
LATOOD ?

M

11

B O R N E O.

REMARKS

ON A RECENT

“NAVAL EXECUTION.”

BY W. N.

“ HIS PRETENCE FOR MAKING WAR UPON HIS NEIGHBOURS WAS THEIR
PIRACIES; THOUGH HE PRACTISED THE SAME TRADE.”

Arbutnot.

LONDON:

Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange
1850.

Price Half-a-Crown.

*Rev. J. P. ...
... at ...*



P R E F A C E.

THERE is ample precedent for writing anonymously. One of our newspapers of considerable circulation, though daily notifying its own disregard of anonymous communications, never publishes a leading article that is not anonymous. What is right in such a newspaper, cannot be wrong in this pamphlet.

For its literary defects, doubtless numerous enough, the writer, being an unpractised hand, craves every indulgence. Careless of the *digito monstrari*, he will be abundantly rewarded by his crude and unpolished remarks, hastily thrown together, conducing in any way to provoke inquiry; and if its result shall lead to an amelioration of the condition of the East insular tribes, no one will rejoice more than he. To him, at all events, does not apply Governor Brooke's observation, "that the happiness or misery of ten thousand of the inhabitants of Borneo is a matter of very small interest to the civilised world, and that a half *per cent* rise or fall in the three *per cents* is of

greater importance than the life and death of these miserable people.”—(See Mundy’s Narrative of Events in Borneo, vol. i. p. 337.)

Unfortunately, the materials for fully comprehending the character of the recent bloody butchery are not yet all dragged to light. It will be borne in mind that, hitherto, we have had only one-sided accounts as to who and what are the “pirates;” and that, although the pharisaical Rajah, while representing himself all just and merciful, depicts the uncivilised Sarebas savage as “pirate and rascal,” the latter might, perhaps, suggest a different picture, if, as the lion in the fable observed, *ses confrères savoient peindre*.

W. N.

14th January, 1850.

B O R N E O.

ABOUT three months since, there arrived in this country accounts of a deadly attack by Governor Brooke, with an allied British and savage force, on some of the native tribes in Borneo, during the night of Tuesday, 31st July, 1849. Though these accounts, from the frightful slaughter they narrated, were calculated to make one shudder, they appear to have attracted but little notice from the Christian inhabitants of Great Britain ; while their Christian rulers have, by the promotion of one of the actors, with indecent and suspicious haste, emphatically proclaimed their sanction of this horrid deed of blood. Since, then, British Christians tacitly, and their Christian rulers expressly, approve of these proceedings, a humble apology for the present attempt to relieve his mind in print is due from the writer, who therefore respectfully takes leave to adopt as his excuse the hacknied heathen quotation,

“ Homo sum : humani à me nihil alienum puto.”

A few years ago Mr. Brooke, by some means or other,

(whether by fraud, or force,* or both, or how otherwise, it is not for the present purpose material to inquire) took possession as sovereign, under the title of Rajah, of a district of the immense island of Borneo, called Sarawak, about equal in extent to one of our largest English counties. It does not appear, however, that this arrangement of the Rajahship was acquiesced in by all the chiefs of that territory. Contiguous to this district of Sarawak are the countries of the Sarebas and the Sakarran tribes; and between these and the people of Sarawak, as well as other uncivilised neighbouring tribes, there exists the usual warfare incident to savage life. Mr. Rajah Brooke was not slow to discover the impracticability of his fully enjoying the sweets of his Sarawak sovereignty with its revenues, while his alien mushroom throne was unrecognised by some of the chiefs, or so long as he and his barbarian subjects were exposed to the molestations of their border enemies. To put down, therefore, as well all refractory chiefs who might disclaim the rule of the European stranger in the territory of Sarawak, as also his disagreeable neighbours the people of Sarebas and Sakarran, was the object of Mr. Rajah Brooke's ambitious policy, to effect which he allowed no scruples of justice or humanity to stand in his way.

* Brooke's own version, in his diary, would lead one to infer the latter. He says—"I mustered my people, explained my intentions and *mode of operation*; and having loaded the vessel's guns with grape and canister, and brought her broadside to bear, I proceeded on shore with a detachment, fully armed."—Mundy, vol. i., p. 270.

A fair specimen of his treachery and cruelty in dealing with the former he himself has coolly related, in his own account of his proceedings against Parimban, the chief of the Singè Dyaks, and Pa Tummo, the panglima, "to establish," as Brooke says, "my authority over them, which *from the first* they had been pleased to disavow." The only shadow of offence that these chiefs had given, was their having "been pleased" (as Brooke says, with an inhuman sneer, while deliberately contemplating their death), with consistent independence, to refuse to bow the knee in submission to an alien squatter. Having frightened them into "terms," and thus got possession of their persons, he put them in irons, and, without any trial whatever, in a few hours had them "despatched by knives at the rear of his house."*

A person who could perpetrate such an atrocity, and shamelessly exhibit his want of all compunction by parading his own revolting account of it, was not likely to be over scrupulous in his "mode of operation" to crush his Sarebas and Sakarran enemies. Had he merely led against them his own savages of Sarawak in open and equal warfare, savage against savage, his good taste and feeling in choosing such an occupation and such companions in arms might have been doubted; but, certainly, his so doing would have been less cowardly, less abhorrent, than the "mode of operation" he was "pleased" to

* However horrible this may appear, the reader will find the narrative fully related by Brooke himself, in his own diary. See Mundy, vol. I., p. 325 *et seq.*

adopt. Taking advantage of the bad name which rumour, with its proverbial exaggeration, has attached to the whole of the coast of Borneo, and which, no doubt, is to some extent deserved by several of the inhabitants of some parts of its thousands of miles of coast, and more especially at the northern point, Mr. Rajah Brooke, with admirable cunning, denounced to the world all his Sarebas and Sakarran enemies, not only as pirates, but as pirates pre-eminently dangerous to British commerce, against whom, therefore, the British forces should be first concentrated. With consummate art and address, he perseveringly importuned the British authorities to this effect, and, as will be seen, ultimately persuaded them to further his sinister schemes for the consolidation and strengthening of his own personal acquisition of Sarawak, by destroying his border enemies, under pretence of their being ferocious pirates, peculiarly formidable and dangerous to British commerce.

About 300 miles distant from Brooke's territory of Sarawak is the small island of Labuan, lately become a British colony, of which Brooke has been appointed Governor, with a salary of 2000*l.* a year. He also holds the appointment of British Commissioner and Consul-General to the Sultan and the independent chiefs of Borneo, with a further salary of 500*l.* a year. He thus has accumulated in his own person three several characters, while the two of them for which he receives 2500*l.* a year from this country are made merely subservient to

the third, that of barbarian Rajah of Sarawak. As Governor of Labuan, he appears to have done no more than draw his salary, except that he has used his *status* resulting from such character, and from that of British Commissioner and Consul, to promote the grandeur and revenues of his own Rajahship. Whether, as Rajah, he may pretend to be, by a strange anomaly, one of the independent chiefs of Borneo, to whom he is himself accredited, or whether he be only a petty chief, tributary, and rendering due homage to the Sultan, in either case there is an incomprehensible absurdity in his position, consisting in no way with the dignity of this country. But derision at such absurdity gives way to horror at the relation of his late atrocious acts, for the achievement of which this very absurdity has unhappily afforded him unprecedented facilities. These acts were repugnant alike to every principle of justice and humanity, and to the hitherto professed policy of our Christian Government. The tenor of that policy may be collected from (among other sources*) the orders of Admiral Cochrane, which were as follows:—

“General Memo., No. 23.

“*Agincourt*, Hong Kong, 18th May, 1844.

“In consequence of a representation I have received from H. E. Sir Henry Pottinger, it is my direction that H.M. ships and vessels, as well as those of the Indian service, employed on the Coast of China, do not interfere directly or indirectly with any ship, vessel, or boat, they may fall in with belonging to Chinese subjects, under the supposition that he may be a pirate, or have been engaged in any unlawful act, *unless he shall*

* See Acts of Parliament in the Appendix.

have, within view, attacked some British vessel or subject, (or that on such proof of the fact as would satisfy a Court of Admiralty in England) in which case only the said vessel is to be detained or interfered with.

“THOMAS COCHRANE, Rear Admiral.

“To the respective Captains,” &c., &c., &c.

“General Memo., No. 42.

“*Agincourt*, 5th March, 1845.

“With reference to my General Memo. of the 18th May last, on the subject of piracy, in pursuance of instructions from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for the words ‘or that on such proof of the fact as would satisfy a Court of Admiralty in England,’ are to be substituted, ‘that *the proofs* are so strong of her having molested a *British vessel or subject*, as to leave no doubt of that fact.’

“THOMAS COCHRANE, Rear Admiral.

“To the respective Captains,” &c., &c., &c.

and from the treaty between Her Majesty and the Sultan of Borneo, the ninth article of which is in these words:

“Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Sultan of Borneo, hereby engage to use every means in their power for the suppression of piracy within the seas, straits, and rivers subject to their respective control or influence; and His Highness, the Sultan of Borneo, engages not to grant either asylum or protection to any persons or vessels engaged in piratical pursuits; and in no case will he permit ships, slaves, or merchandise captured by pirates, to be introduced into his dominions, or to be exposed therein for sale. And Her Britannic Majesty claims, and His Highness the Sultan of Borneo concedes to Her Majesty, the right of investing her officers, and other duly constituted authorities, with the power of entering at all times, with her vessels of war, *or other vessels duly empowered*, the ports, rivers, and creeks within the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of Borneo, *in order to capture all vessels engaged in piracy* or slave-dealing, and to seize *and to reserve for the judgment of the proper authorities* all persons offending against the Two Contracting Powers in these respects.”

Her Majesty's advisers not having ventured to publish the official despatches, all information on the subject at present is derivable only from three channels of communication, which appear to have been all written by Rajah Brooke himself, or under his direction, and therefore may be supposed to give a version the most favourable to his interests.

One of these is an article in the September *Journal of the Indian Archipelago*, entitled "Destruction of the fleet of the Sarebas and Sakarran pirates by *the expedition from Sarawak*," and bearing the strongest internal evidence of being Brooke's own composition. Another is an article in the *Singapore Free Press* of the 4th September. The third is a letter in the *Illustrated London News* of the 10th of November, with the signature, "B. Urban Vigors." This Mr. Vigors dates his letter from Sarawak, and relates his having formed one of the expedition, but in what capacity he does not say.

There is a discrepancy in the accounts as to the date of the expedition's starting on its mission of blood, one account giving July 25th, both the others July 24th, as the date; but all the accounts concur in showing that, about a week previously to the 31st July, some of the ships of Her Majesty's navy and of the East India Company's service, with a number of Rajah Brooke's savages, had assembled at or near Sarawak, for what purpose the atrocious sequel alone tells us. That purpose was evidently deliberately premeditated, and its execution planned

with unrelenting coolness. At this time it is not pretended that any British vessel or subject had been molested by the savages, who were so soon to become the victims of Rajah Brooke and his allied forces; and even had it been otherwise, their fell purpose was not "to capture and to reserve for the judgment of the proper authorities," but—how dreadful to reflect on it!—to stealthily surprise, and ruthlessly destroy! One whole week, including therefore a Sunday, were these Christian Englishmen, with their savage companions, under the direction of Governor and Commissioner Brooke, at the request of Rajah Brooke, lying in wait for their devoted prey!

Here is the moment to inquire for the proofs *then* existing, had they existed at all, of any distinct and specific offence by these poor savages, justifying the horrid slaughter thus previously coolly resolved on. Up to the time of this indiscriminate massacre, there does not appear to have been even a show of obtaining any shadow of proof whatever of their guilt. Afterwards, indeed, *afterwards*, there was, with bitter mockery of justice, a miserable ~~show~~^{aim} of collecting some rigmarole nonsense, impudently called proofs. The idea of first executing a supposed criminal, and then trying him, has till now been the subject of mere ridicule, on the supposition of its being too monstrous to be ever realised. It is scarcely credible that there should be no proofs of any specific offences taken antecedently to the 24th or 25th July, when these "naval executioners" (as, by a Calcraft turn of expression, the

heroes are happily termed in a well-known Brooke newspaper) proceeded to carry into effect the Rajah's "mode of operation." If such antecedent proofs exist, where are they? Where were they taken? Before what authority? What were the depositions? Who were the deponents? Who, by name or particular description, were the offenders? What was the particular crime charged? When, where, how, by what number, and against whom committed? Surely, before proceeding on such a "naval execution," all this should have been in due form. Here was no sudden or pressing emergency requiring instant and prompt action, without affording time or opportunity for rigid observance of every order and regulation. So far from it, all the accounts agree in representing the "executioners," as already stated, to have been waiting one whole week for their victims. How long previously the "execution" had been decided on, does not yet appear. One of the accounts merely vouchsafes the vague intimation that

"Arrangements were made that H. M. S. *Mæander*, 44 guns; *Albatross*, 12 guns; and *Royalist*, 10 guns, together with the H. E. I. C.'s war-steamers *Nemesis* and *Semiramis*, should rendezvous at Sarawak, and furnish boats and a European force of 300 men.

"The *Mæander* and *Semiramis*, however, did not arrive; and the effective force of the *Royalist* and *Nemesis* was so reduced from illness, that we could only muster seven boats, manned by 108 men, including officers.

"All arrangements being completed, it was considered better to proceed, even with this reduced force, than (by waiting longer) to run the risk of being overtaken by the rainy season."

The origin of these "arrangements" is important, and they ought to be withdrawn from their present secrecy and mystery. What were they? How, when, why, and by whom were they made? Were they in writing? If so, their tenor and date? When the lives of so many human beings are involved, and their destruction thus irrevocably determined on, are our Ministers and Parliament to be flippantly referred for explanation to some trashy volumes written by Brooke, and published by one of his toadies, for the circulating libraries, a year or so previously? All we are informed of as preceding this execution is, that "arrangements" were made. An execution implies a judgment, after trial, on proof: but not one of those legitimate antecedents is here. Such is the "mode of operation" of Governor Brooke, already stamped with the solemn approbation of the Government, and now awaiting to be confirmed by the assembled wisdom of Great Britain!

Mr. Vigors, in his letter, gives a remarkable ground for these proceedings. He relates a foolish story of the Sarebas people having taunted Rajah Brooke, by asking "if he were an old woman, and afraid, that he did not attack them *as he had threatened*." "It will be seen in the sequel," Mr. Vigors continues, with grim facetiousness, "that this message is not likely to be repeated."

The main force is represented as having consisted of eighty well-armed prahus of Rajah Brooke's savages, and to these some of the proud royal navy of Great Britain

were joined as an ally. Whether the Sarebas people supposed Rajah Brooke and his eighty prahus to be pirates, is not stated. On the 28th July,

"Intelligence was received that a large force of upwards of 100 prahus were out from Sarebas, in the direction of the Rejang, with the intention, it was supposed, of attacking the town of Siriki. All were now on the alert."

Mr. Vigors, after telling us that Rajah Brooke, in person, commanded his well-armed prahus of Sarawak savages, assisted by his nephew, "Captain Brooke, of the 88th Regiment,"* and that these "as well as the cutters of the *Albatross* and *Royalist*, commanded by Lieutenants Wilms-hurst and Everett, were stationed *in ambush* at the mouth of the Kaluka," thus proceeds:

"Trying as it was to the patience of all parties, we remained in position until the 31st, during which interval every precaution human foresight could suggest was adopted to ensure success. About 7½ P. M. we were engaged in a rubber of whist on board the *Nemesis*, and had almost abandoned all hope of *surprising* the enemy, when a spy-boat returned at best speed, with the long and anxiously-looked-for intelligence that the piratical fleet had rounded Tanjong Siri, and was rapidly approaching our position. As yet it was, of course, uncertain for which river they would make. This question was, however, soon set at rest, and a brisk fire of rockets from the cutters, and of great and small guns from the remainder of the *Rajah's* force stationed at the entrance of the Kaluka, announced that the enemy had attempted to force that river, and had met with a warmer reception than they had anticipated. *A rocket was now fired by*

* These Brookes have a strange aptitude for incongruous and discordant pluralities. None but a Brooke could have been found at the same time doing duty as a Bornean Bandar, and drawing his pay as an English officer. This is a wrinkle for the United Service.

the Rajah, and, on this preconcerted signal, Captain Farquhar moved round Banting Marron, with the European force under his immediate command, to support the Rajah, if necessary, and also with a view to enclosing the enemy between two fires, leaving, however, a strong native force at the mouth of the Sarebas, to intercept the pirates, in case of their passing the European boats, and making for this, their native river. Finding themselves foiled at the Kaluka, the enemy, gallantly followed by the two cutters and the Rajah's light skirmishing boats (which kept up a constant fire), put to sea, with the intention of running for the Batang Lupar; here, however, no doubt much to their surprise, they encountered Captain Farquhar's boats, and being saluted with round shot and rockets, they divided their force. They yet, however, preserved admirable order. Some returning to the Kaluka (still most judiciously guarded by the Rajah) renewed their attempt to enter, but with the like bad success; others passing in shoal water inside Captain Farquhar, made for the Sarebas, and the remainder, having greater speed than his heavily laden boats, succeeded for the present in escaping to sea.

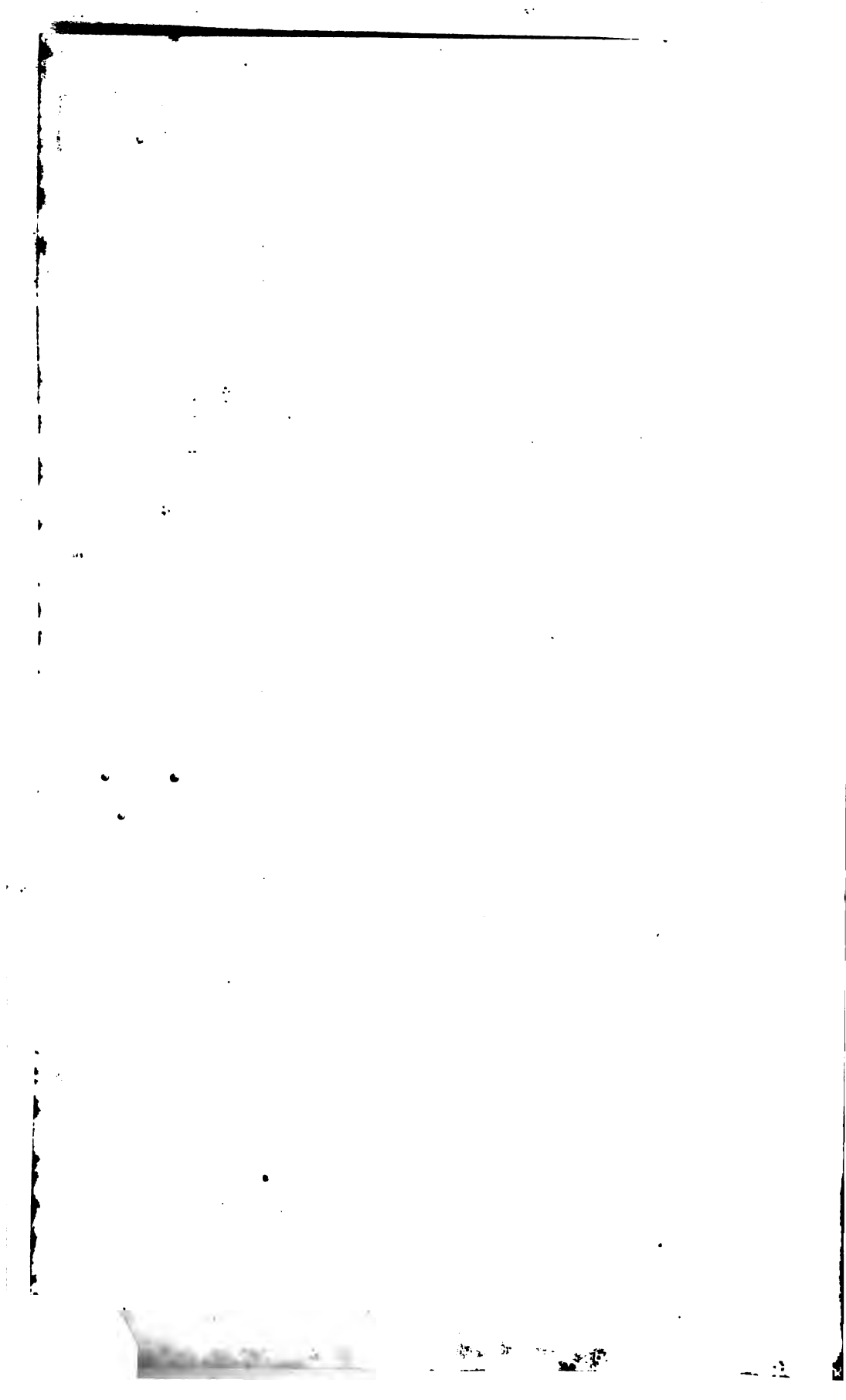
"The Nemesis had hitherto remained in the mouth of the Sarebas in position, but ready to move at a moment's notice to any point where her services might be required. She now acted her part, and that right nobly. Perceiving by the fire from Captain Farquhar's boats that the enemy had attempted to put to sea, Commander Wallage gave chase, and fell in with seventeen prahus which had succeeded in escaping Captain Farquhar, and were making in beautiful line for the Batang Lupar. When abeam we saluted them with grape and canister from our 32-pounders, raking the entire line, which we then broke, driving many of them on shore badly crippled; where they fell an easy prey to the Dyak boats, which, headed by Mr. Steel of Sarawak, in the Snake, followed the Nemesis, but never interfered with her fire. We then pursued five others, and destroyed them in detail, passing round each and pouring in a constant fire of grape and canister, musketry and rifles, until they drifted past us helpless logs, without a living being on board.

"That discharge of grape was a fearful sight, as at point-blank range it crashed over the sea, and through the devoted prahus, marking its track with the floating bodies of the dying, shattered prahus, planks, shields, and fragments of all sorts. I should have pitied them; but they were pirates, and the thought steeled my heart."



SURPRISE AND MASSACRE OF THE SAREBAS AND SAKARRAN DYAKS ON NIGHT OF JULY 31ST 1849.

- 1-From the East India Company's War Steamer "Ternara".
- 2-Canoes of the Sarebas and Sakarran Dyaks.
- 3-Boats of the Mysore's Ships. Alutras and Penabast.
- 4-Royal British Sarranah Penabast.



Not the slightest attempt was made to take a single prisoner, or to release and save any slaves, if any there were on board these prahus!* All were indiscriminately slaughtered! And these hideous occurrences are by civilised Christians in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The writer in the journal, who, as already stated, is believed to be Brooke himself, says

“The steamer at the river's mouth manœuvred and kept up a *hot and destructive fire*. The men-of-war boats outside were *playing the same game* ;”

this *game* being no less than the awful one of suddenly sending numbers of human beings to their dread account, without warning or trial!

“whilst the Sarawak natives [as Brooke politely calls his own savages] on either bank of the river, about three miles and a half across, were closely engaged with the pirates, and intercepting their escape.”

The *Singapore Free Press*, among other details, relates the following:

“It was now dark, and the great danger was that of firing into each other, or into our native allies. *The pass-word selected was ‘Rajah,’* and the Malays screamed this out at the top of their voices when they thought any of the Europeans were near them. Commander Farquhar, who directed the operations, was in the midst of the *mêlée*, giving orders and exhorting the crews of the various boats to be careful and not to fire into each other, and several of those present, from their age and service capable of giving an opinion, state that they *never in any boat action saw firing so rapid and destructive*. Two large prahus were seen by the

* If these prahus were pirates, the probability would be that a great proportion of those on board would be slaves and captives, according to Brooke's own accounts. Is the Brooke “mode of operation” to be adopted on the coast of Africa by our cruisers, thus killing alike captors and captives?

commander escaping seaward, and the steam-tender was ordered to chase; the nearest one, having barely escaped one of her 6-pounder rockets, made for the river and met a pirate's doom. *The Nemesis, which had been dealing death and destruction to all around her, ran her down, and the scene which took place as her crew, above sixty in number, came in contact with her paddle-wheels, beggars all description.* A large congreve-rocket from the little steamer entered the prahu that had continued out to sea, and rendered her destruction complete."

The sum of this terrible night's work is thus given:

"Of 120 prahus which, it is said, started on the expedition, and all of which were in the bay the preceding evening, more than 87 were destroyed, and the loss of life on their side must have been immense. Indeed, it has been placed as high as 1200 men. On our part, saving a few slight casualties, all were unscathed. The observer was compelled to ask himself, could destruction so immense, success so complete—at least one third of this ruthless horde sent to their account—be effected in a space so brief, and with a European force so small?"

- Even up to this point, there is not a vestige of proof, or pretence of proof, or even any specific charge of any distinct piratical act committed by any of these savages, thus stealthily hemmed in and ruthlessly slaughtered within the fatal toils so diabolically contrived pursuant to Rajah Brooke's "mode of operation." Great will be the reader's astonishment, then, at finding it said by the journalist, with the utmost complacency of assurance,

"Thus the pirates of Sarebas, caught red-handed in the fact, laden with plunder, and gorged with blood, met the fate they so richly deserved."

Caught in what fact? Laden with what plunder? Gorged with whose blood? Up to this point there is not one word of information as to any of these particulars.

One would really imagine from these unexplained epithets, "red-handed" and "gorged with blood," that the Sarebas savages had, by means of Congreve rockets and 32-pounders, been destroying some twelve or fifteen hundred British subjects, whom they regarded, or pretended to regard, as pirates. On this supposition, indeed, those epithets would be sufficiently intelligible.

It is impossible, after Rajah Brooke's doings with the Singè chiefs he put to death, to be satisfied with his unsupported testimony against his Sarebas neighbours. The slayer of Parimban and Pa Tummo is not the witness on whom reliance can be placed. One who disregards the sixth commandment, will scarcely be restrained by the ninth. But even supposing it to be true that all these slaughtered savages had been actually caught in the very fact of piracy (although this is nowhere shown) against British vessels and subjects, the avowed policy of this Christian country, as evinced by the Admiral's orders, and by the article in the treaty with the Sultan of Borneo already alluded to, and as dictated by all humane, just, and generous feelings, is not to destroy, but to "detain," [See order of 18th May, 1844,] "to capture, and to seize, and reserve for the judgment of the proper authorities," the supposed criminals. It would be a mere quibble to say that the orders apply only to the coast of China, and that the Sarebas country is not within the dominions of the Sultan. These documents do not the less

show what is the avowed policy of this country in dealing with pirates. The writer last referred to concludes his details thus:

“Upwards of eighty prahus were captured (many from 60 to 70 feet long, and 8 or 9 feet in beam), and many men slain. It is difficult to calculate the exact number of the killed, but, at a low computation, 300 must have fallen during the night's action, and many wounded and exposed will swell the total loss of the pirates. The morning was occupied in destroying, and appropriating [to what and whose use?] the captured prahus; and orders having been given [when, and by whom?] to show mercy to any of the pirates who wished to give themselves up, the fleet in the evening joined the steamer at Rembas.”

After all the preceding horrors it is refreshing to arrive even at last at the mere word “mercy.” It is only to be regretted that mercy should have so tardily followed, instead of preceding, the deadly march of these missionaries of destruction. Why were orders to show mercy only issued when wholesale slaughter had already rendered them a mockery? How was mercy to be shown towards victims already slain? Why were these naval executioners to have hearts of steel for their butchery during the night of 31st July, and to show mercy only on 1st of August? If their duty required mercy to be shown on one day, why not on another? Why should a “pirate” on 1st August be merely nominally taken prisoner, (for it appears afterwards that the few prisoners taken subsequently to the grand slaughter were released without any punishment or trial,) if the Brooke “mode of operation” were justifiable on 31st July? How was it that Mercy was as

blind as Justice on the Tuesday night, and exercised an extrajudicial vision on the Wednesday morning? If supposed pirates were properly destroyed without trial or proof yesterday, would it be right to let pirates loose on society, without punishment or trial, to-morrow? *Why was there no attempt to take any prisoners on 31st July?* WHY? And why were the prisoners subsequently taken, immediately let loose without any trial? *Why?* Because Governor Brooke and his confederates *dared not* risk the ordeal of a trial. The not taking prisoners on 31st July has been attempted to be excused on the pretence that the number of supposed criminals was so great as to have rendered it more convenient to kill them at once, than to be bothered with taking and *trying* them. But this excuse cannot apply to the letting loose the prisoners, pirates as they are called, subsequently taken, without any trial. By what sophistry can the law officers of the Crown furnish a decent pretext for executing a supposed criminal one day, and letting another supposed criminal loose on society the next, without trial in either case? The only conceivable explanation is that Brooke and the others knew too well their deeds could never bear the sifting and exposure inevitably attending the trial of a prisoner.

There is some discrepancy in the statements of the numbers killed. The lowest computation given, makes one shudder. In Governor Wall's case the number was only one. In two of the accounts above quoted, the numbers are computed by one of them at 1200, by the other at

300.* Mr. Vigors gives the following different result from either:

“The entire force under Captain Farquhar’s command may be estimated at 3000 men. From information subsequently obtained, that of the enemy cannot be taken lower than 120 prahus and 4000 men. The loss of the enemy in the action was 90 prahus, and not less than 400 men; whilst we lost but two men killed and six wounded. In addition, however, to the loss in action, the enemy suffered most severely, being followed in the jungle by the Dyaks, who, *like bloodhounds, tracked and hunted them down, cutting their heads off, and bringing them in as a proof of victory*; and even of those who escaped a violent death, at least one-third must have perished before they reached their homes, being altogether destitute of food. The total loss of the enemy may, therefore, be estimated at 1500 men.”

This graphic description of Rajah Brooke’s amiable subjects and followers, who, like bloodhounds, were employed to track and hunt down his enemies, cutting their heads off and bringing them in as a proof of victory, is appropriately followed up by another, not less interesting:

- “During the absence of the boats, numbers of the pirates who had escaped in the action, but were not aware of our still occupying the river, were cut off by the Dyak boats in attempting to ascend the Serebus, and I then had an opportunity of witnessing the *operation* of preserving the heads. The Dyaks, having killed their enemy, immediately cut his head off, with a fiendish yell; they then scoop out the brains, and suspend the head from a rod of bamboo. They then light a slow fire underneath, and the smoke ascends through the neck, and penetrates the head, thoroughly drying the interior. It is then placed in a basket of very open work, and carried suspended from the belt of the captor—more highly prized than ornaments of gold or precious stones. On one occasion I saw five heads on a platform, undergoing the operation; and within two feet of it the Dyaks were coolly cooking some wild boar chops for their dinner, and inhaling the mingled perfume of baked human and hog’s flesh!”

* One of the newspapers in Brooke’s interest states the number to have been 2000.

These are the amiable, virtuous, and interesting subjects of Rajah Brooke ! These are the worthy companions in arms, with whom the gallant successors of " Nelson, Duncan, Howe, and Jervis," thought it no shame to be associated in achieving the " naval execution" already detailed ! and yet, in the next nicely printed and prettily bound book to be got up by one of Brooke's executioners, in two volumes, adorned with a gilt man of war on one cover, a fanciful prahu on the other, and the Rajah's benevolent countenance for a frontispiece, there will be a repetition of Brooke's fine apostrophe " Gallant Albattrosses ! Gallant Snakes !"

After this horrible and disgusting destruction of human life, the naval executioners proceeded up the several rivers, devastating and plundering. Mr. Vigors elegantly paraphrases their robbery with violence, as the " imposition of a heavy fine."* He says,

" Having obtained a sufficient supply of firewood, we proceeded up the river Rejang to the Kenowit, up which river the boats advanced about forty miles, and, *surprising* the enemy, *plundered and destroyed* the villages, and took several prisoners. The boats having returned, we pressed on to the town of Kenowit, on the inhabitants of which *the Rajah imposed a heavy fine*, with a threat of visiting them with *his* heaviest displeasure in the event of their violating the pledge they now gave to abandon their piratical habits. *All prisoners were released*, with instructions to inform their respective tribes, not only that *the Rajah* had no wish to injure them, but that *he* would most willingly afford them all the protection in *his* power, if they would only abandon piracy, and live at peace with their neighbours."

* Mr. Ainsworth, in his new issue, should avail himself of this happy idea when detailing the exploits of the Rajahs of Hounslow-heath.

Here the Governor and Commissioner were entirely merged and sunk in the Rajah. It was His Barbarian Highness, not His Christian Excellency, who sacked the "heavy fine," to discover the amount and particulars whereof, the keenest-sighted financial reformer may fruitlessly pore out his eyes in Exchequer researches. In vain will Mr. Hume move for a return. The answer of our Treasury Lords will be a disclaimer of all authority by them over the Treasury of Sarawak.

It is sickening to follow Brooke, and his allied savage and Christian forces, through all their disgusting adventures of cruelty and rapine, which throughout from their commencement, were evidently for nothing else than the aggrandisement of the Rajah. After the smart fashion recently adopted in censuring a railway chairman, to ascertain the excellent understanding between the Governor the Commissioner and the Rajah it may be asked With whom did the Rajah make the "arrangements" to kill the Sarebas Dyaks? With the Governor and Commissioner. At whose port, and with whose forces, did the Governor and Commissioner rendezvous with his British forces? The Rajah's. Who fired the signal rocket for slaughter by the Governor's and Commissioner's British forces? The Rajah. What was the Governor's and Commissioner's pass-word? "Rajah." Whose body-guard of savages appropriated the Governor's and Commissioner's spoils? The Rajah's. Who levied the "heavy fines?" The Governor and Commissioner. Who pocketed and kept

them? The Rajah. Who pays for it all? The "distant, ignorant, ill-informed multitude," as the Rajah calls the people of England. Thus Brooke has developed his idea of the duties of his several characters; as Governor of Labuan, to draw his salary while 300 miles off; as Borneo Commissioner, to kill and plunder the Borneo Dyaks; and as both, to obey the paramount behests of the Rajah of Sarawak. All these strange adventures were strangely succeeded by—what does the reader imagine?

"The ceremony of laying the first timber of the Church of St. Thomas at Sarawak, performed by Sir James Brooke, in presence of the officers of H.M.S. *Albatross* !!"

A Church? dedicated to St. Thomas? Rather should it have been a charnel-house dedicated to the Angel of Death.

After alternately killing without mercy; then setting loose prisoners, he called pirates, without any trial or punishment; then devastating and plundering villages; then, whitewashing his hands and his conscience by founding a church, the capricious and whimsical Rajah completed the round of his varied amusements for the season, with a public dinner and speech to his brother executioners. In this speech he affected to treat all dissenters from his "mode of operation" as "ignorant;" and, by a most unintelligible twist of logic, contended that his slaughter of a number of savages was sufficient proof of their being pirates! Here is his argument:

"But the whole question must rest on the fact of whether these people

were pirates or not ; and *after the recent defeat at sea of a fleet of 120 war prahus*, manned by at least 3500 men, this might be considered as set at rest."

This is certainly an extraordinary mode of proof, on which it would be very dangerous for the fame of an Old Bailey practitioner to rely as a precedent, when defending a murderer and robber. But this is outdone by what succeeds, which it would be difficult to match for outrageous impudence at the Old Bailey, or anywhere else:

"I claim as *a gentleman* the ordinary credit due to every man for good sense and humanity. I can appeal to all present whether any inhumanity has been committed in our recent expedition;"

"all present" being his accomplices and subordinate executioners !

—"and whether, with *the guarantee of my character*, it is in the least probable that it should have occurred at any previous time."

- • In mere sordid railway squabbles, such a guarantee from
- Brooke's betters has long since been rejected; and is it to be said that we are to be content with such a rotten and damaged security where the lives of thousands of our fellow-beings are concerned ?

And then this enlightened personage, who contemns all others than himself and his "red-handed" confederates; who "blushes for the monstrous calumnies" of his biographers; and who calls his countrymen at home "a distant, ignorant, and ill-informed multitude," gives the following development of his own superior knowledge:

"I know of no way to advance civilisation and secure the safety of commerce except by the punishment"

[by "punishment," he means, of course, killing and plundering, without warning or mercy]

—"of those hardened and lawless tribes which have long been the terror and the scourge of Borneo."

Then why build a church dedicated to St. Thomas?*

After such a wretched display of his own ignorance, this is a pleasantly blushing gentleman, truly, who can presume impertinently to speak of others as ignorant. There is not a Westminster school-boy unable to teach this Mr. Rajah Brooke what he confesses himself ignorant of, or who would hesitate to tell him

Ut errat longè meâ quidem sententiâ,
 Qui imperium credat gravius esse aut stabilius,
 Vi quod fit, quàm illud quod amicitia adjungitur.
 Mea sic est ratio, et sic animum induco meum :
 Malo coactus qui suum officium facit,
 Dum id rescitum iri credit, tantisper cavet :
 Si sperat fore clam, rursum ad ingenium redit.
 Ille quem beneficio adjungas, ex animo facit :
 Studet par referre, præsens absensque idem erit.

We are told that the earliest enlightened adventurer on record, in his tour of civilisation, when almost touched by

* There is an insane incoherency in Brooke's doctrines and doings. In his printed letter about the Borneo Dyaks, dated 10th December, 1841, he says, "It will be in vain to preach a faith to them, *the first precepts of which are daily violated on their own persons!*" This is the dictum of the "naval executioner" of 31st July, 1849, who, a few days after the slaughter, proceeded to build "a church dedicated to Saint Thomas!" Another dictum of this inconsistent moralising Rajah is in page 67 of vol. ii, of Mundy: "A murder," says Brooke, "committed by a demi-savage, or rather the circumstances attendant on it, require the deepest consideration; and the *clearest evidence must be produced of guilt before such a man should be condemned.*" This is actually written by the very same hand which, on the 31st of July, fired the signal rocket for indiscriminate butchery, by surprise, without warning or trial, or the production of any evidence whatever of guilt!

compunction at the idea of inducing the first ignorant pair to eat of the fatal tree of knowledge, "with necessity, the tyrant's plea, excused his devilish deeds." In the fifth century, Alaric with his Goths, Attila with his Huns, and Genseric with his Vandals, "knew of no way to advance civilisation, except by the punishment of the hardened and lawless tribes which had long been the terror and scourge" of the known world. And after desolating Italy, these enlightened and sensitive philanthropists no doubt appealed "to all present" for their character for "humanity;" and as to the future, prophetically "blushed for the monstrous calumnies" of the historian. And in our own day, a Christian warrior from the land of liberty and fraternity, knew of no way to advance civilisation in Africa, except by *his* "mode of operation" against the wretched Kabyles, whom he humanely enveloped with fire!*

But who and what is this Mr. Rajah Brooke, that he should dare to "rush in where angels fear to tread," and, with unparalleled audacity, assume the right of arbitrarily dispensing the awful issues of life and death? He has had the unbounded impertinence to pretend to be a successor to the lamented Sir Stamford Raffles, in the great work of ameliorating the condition of the natives of the far East. Really to associate his name at all, with that of the land executioner of Parimban and Pa Tummo, and of the naval executioner of the Sarebas Dyaks, is a most scandalous libel on departed excellence. Can this ridiculous and con-

* No wonder that a French newspaper has tried to defend Brooke's "mode of operation."

temptible pretender to the bow of Ulysses, instead of chattering nonsense "as a gentleman" about the guarantee of his character, produce one single passage in the life of the great man he professes to imitate, bearing the slightest analogy to the Brooke "mode of operation?" The mere question is an insult to the memory of Sir Stamford Raffles. Since, however, the Rajah and his friends have ventured to make free with the name of Raffles, an extract from one of Sir Stamford's letters may be not irrelevant. When speaking of Borneo and the East insular tribes, he says:

"Even their piracies and deadly creeses, which have proved such fertile sources of abuse and calumny, have nothing in them to affright; nay, there is something even to admire in them—their piracies are but a proof of their spirit and their enterprise, and *the regulation of good government is alone wanting to direct this spirit, and this enterprise in a course more consonant with our notions of civilisation.*" [Vide Memoir of Raffles, p. 255.]

Such is the observation of the "ignorant" Raffles. To add the opinions of the ignorant Crawford, and of a number of other ignorant men of oriental literature and experience, would be beyond the space and scope of this pamphlet. Let it suffice to say that it never entered the head of any one of these ignorant men, or of the ignorant Wilberforce, the ignorant Clarkson, the ignorant Romilly, the ignorant Howard, the ignorant Buxton, or the ignorant Mrs. Fry, in the several spheres of benevolent action in which they moved, to accelerate their steps by bloodshed. Each of them was so ignorant, as to have recoiled with disgust at the bare idea, and to have mistrusted the integrity of any

scheme of professed philanthropy, contaminated by such a horrid auxiliary. If knowledge be necessarily associated with treachery, cruelty, hypocrisy, and impudence; if ignorance be essential for companionship with mercy and truth, righteousness and peace, then, indeed, 'tis worse than "folly to be wise."

But let us test the prudence of the Brooke "mode of operation," by applying it nearer home. Brooke is not quite without a precedent. Every one remembers the naval execution, on a scale even grander than Brooke's, suggested to Parliament by a lamented admiral and senator, as the only cure he knew for the miseries of Ireland. Ingenious as was the idea, it was never assented to by assembled ignorance. Now let us suppose that, during the late troubles, the ignorant Lord Clarendon, instead of allowing a fair trial to Parimban O'Brien and Pa Tummo Mitchell, had put them in irons, and within a few hours, "despatched them with knives at the rear of his own house." Let us suppose, that the same ignorant nobleman had secretly surrounded Conciliation Hall with troops, and suddenly, without warning, slaughtered all the Irishers, both young and old, then and there assembled, because he supposed them to be rebels and "rascals;" and let us suppose his ignorant Lordship then to tell Her Majesty that he knew of no other mode of quieting Ireland. Then we should have had in Ireland a fair specimen of the Brooke "mode of operation," as lately acted on in the far East, and approved by this very Lord Clarendon's

colleagues!! Let Ireland be thankful, for once, that (among other small mercies) she has an ignorant Lord Lieutenant, instead of the enlightened Rajah Brooke.

And has it never occurred to our noble Foreign Secretary that his Government's support of their pet piracy fancier may tempt other adventurers to similar mad freaks? And then, what is to hinder some French Brooke, some enlightened philanthropical Colonel Pelissier for example, to squat himself after the Brooke fashion in the Sarebas country, and like Brooke, fantastically play also the Rajah there? What follows? Rajah Brooke calls Rajah Pelissier and his Sarebas savages, pirates and "rascals;" Rajah Pelissier calls Rajah Brooke and his Sarawak savages the same, though perhaps, with a still remaining touch of European good manners, omitting the latter epithet. There ought then to ensue a reciprocal naval execution; but before its occurrence, European diplomacy will have wished both fire-eating Rajahs bundled out of the country altogether.

In conclusion it may be asked, even admitting these Sarebas Dyaks to be as represented, cruel and uncivilised savages, whether it be possible to turn violence into gentleness, by greater violence? Can cruelty be converted to kindness, by superior cruelty? Is it essential that the history of civilisation henceforth should be always written in letters of blood? Must no angel of mercy be ever again allowed to lend one single feather from her wing to record European achievements in the East? Is the highest penalty which can be inflicted on regularly convicted

criminals to be arbitrarily visited on those merely suspected of evil dispositions only?

Has patitur pœnas peccandi sola voluntas ?

For how much longer is the Brooke "mode of operation" to be permitted? That it has not been successful hitherto, according to this person's own showing, is evident from the fact of each of his successive massacres exceeding its predecessor in horror and atrocity: and yet the journalist already referred to, insists on the Brooke "mode of operation" being "*consistently* carried out;" and expresses an earnest hope that these bloody proceedings "will be followed up with *unflagging vigour*." Every good and sensible man will hope the contrary; for they are condemned by the united voice of justice, humanity, and sound policy, as well as of Christianity.

If these doings be right, then is Christianity a lie and a cheat. If this triune operator, this amphibious executioner, have really correctly discharged his duty, and no more or less than his duty to his fellow man, then was the blessed founder of our merciful religion, who died for sinners instead of destroying them, an arrant impostor, and His precepts and example of peace and love a miserable error to be shunned rather than emulated.

Our bishops and clergy with their missionary meetings and bible societies, may wink hard at these things; our Government may shamelessly become accessories, by rewarding the principals; Parliament may possibly, with

wonted subserviency, aid a feeble and tortuous Ministry in encouraging and abetting these executioners, and in screening them from all inquiry; even the press and the public, absorbed in attention to the price of butcher's meat, and with sympathies monopolised by the suffering bullocks in Smithfield, may be callous or indifferent to this matter; but that such abominable works will elude the righteous displeasure of an Almighty, cannot be imagined without arriving at the conclusion of the fool who hath said in his heart, there is no God.

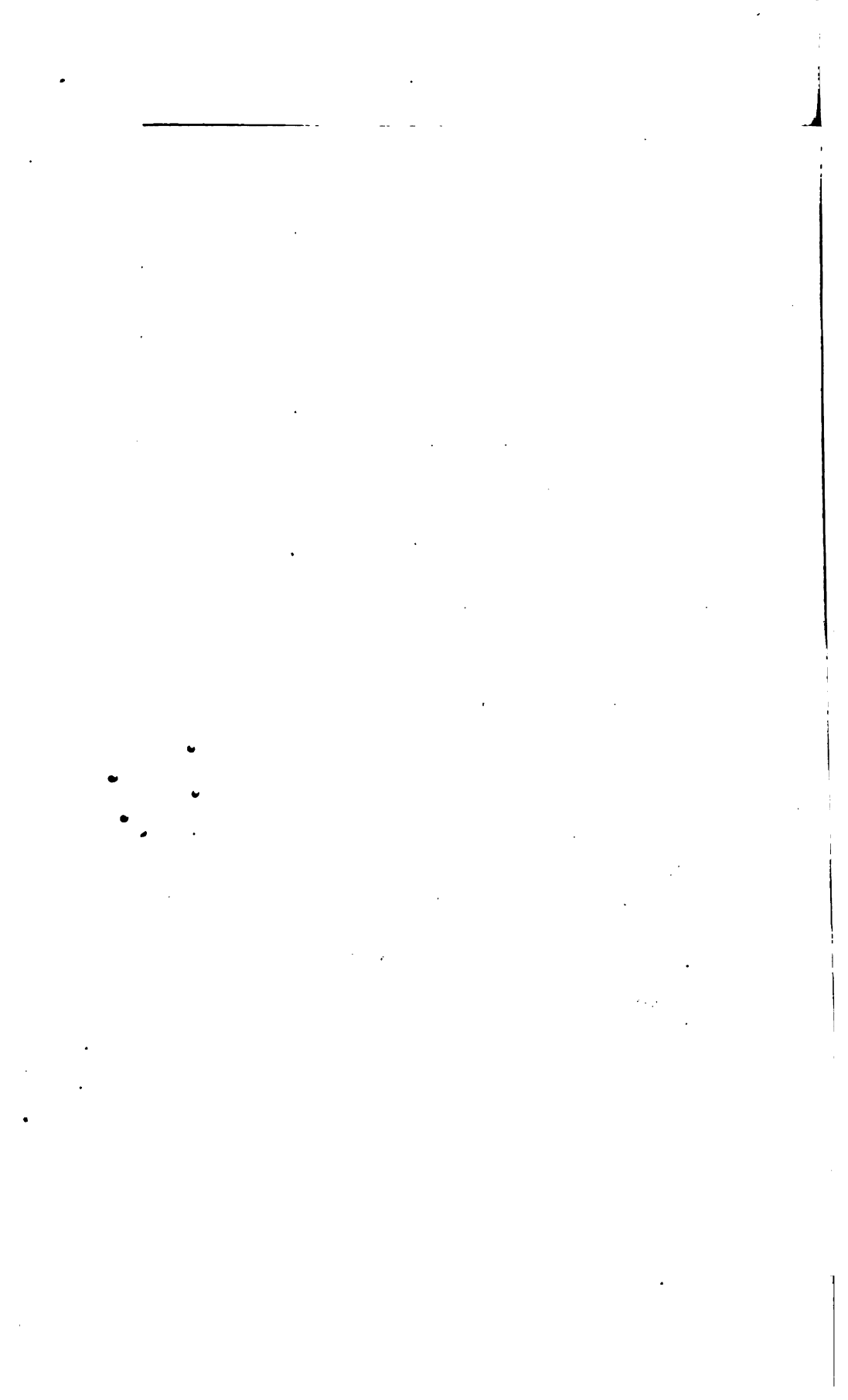


NOTE.—After these pages had been printed off, it was suggested by a friend to whom the writer had shown a copy, that the crime of piracy not being by our English law punishable with death, even after regular and formal conviction, should have been more prominently noticed than by a mere reference to the Act of Victoria in the Appendix.

For this defect, among others, in his feeble attempt to excite inquiry, he begs to reiterate an apology. However imperfectly he may have expressed his ideas, his wish and intentions have been to denounce the impudent and atrocious audacity of any Government Official presuming to make his mere *sic volo*, even to the taking the life of his fellow man, a substitute for all legislative enactments, all forms of law, all rules of British policy, all principles of justice, all dictates of humanity, all precepts of Christianity.

W. N.

17th January, 1850.



APPENDIX.

To bolster up Brooke's character as a Christian philanthropist, and as a wise and just public servant, some desperate attempts have been made, more creditable to the zeal than to the prudence or modesty of their authors. With regard to the disgusting affair of Parimban and Pa Tummo a conscious silence is observed. That "execution" appears to have been too bad for defence, and therefore all reference to it is evaded.

As a set-off to the horrible slaughter of the 31st July, it is pretended that Brooke had bought some slaves out of slavery. When, and why he did so, is not stated. It is quite clear that he had no such slave-buying notions on the 31st July, for the slaughter was indiscriminate, comprising the slaves, supposing the Sarebas people to have had any on board. If they were believed by Brooke to be pirates, he must have been pretty sure of several slaves being with them. Brooke, in all his accounts, speaks of piracy and the taking prisoners for slavery as invariably connected in the same offenders. He says that in this case the pirates, as he calls them, were "loaded with plunder:" if so, it follows

that there would have been the usual proportion of slaves. Besides, Brooke knows very well that the crews of pirates commonly consist partly of slaves. On his own showing, therefore, he must have knowingly and intentionally involved the supposed pirates and slaves in one common destruction.

It has been absurdly pretended that, before Brooke can be condemned, it must be shown that the Sarebas people were "peaceful traders," and that this character of them is necessarily implied by denouncing Brooke. This is sheer nonsense. There is nothing to show conclusively what they are—probably they are addicted to predatory warfare alike with their fellow savages of Sarawak. The whole *onus* of proof lies on Brooke. But it is not enough for him to establish conclusively that they are pirates. He must also prove, pirates or not pirates, that, in his character of a public servant of this country, *not as Rajah*—one is sick of the "Rajah"—his proceedings with respect to this slaughter and rapine were in accordance with his duty as Governor of Labuan, and Commissioner and Consul-General (which means an inferior species of envoy) to the sultan and independent chiefs of Borneo, and consistent with the policy of this country in dealing with supposed pirates.

One of the daily papers, a sort of *Rajah* of the press, has recently proclaimed, "It is *OUR province* to deal with the events of the day with all the disadvantages of a hasty judgment." A Rajah of another 'province' fancies the same. The former Rajah's hasty judgment of his brother Rajah's hasty doings was, that the latter, by his 'naval execution,' had "*rendered eminent service to the cause of civilisation and HUMANITY.*" (!!!) *O tempora!*

War Prahus.

Brooke has invariably dignified the wretched boats of the Sarebas and Sakarran Dyaks, by calling them "*war prahus*;" they are not so, but are mere canoes propelled by paddles only, and are without sails or masts. A prahu has masts, sails, and paddles, and is far less fragile than the Dyak canoe.

Labuan.

When detailing, with fitting solemnity, the particulars of the cession of Labuan, Mundy [vol. ii. p. 297] says "I turned to the sultan, and exclaimed firmly, 'Bobo chop, bobo chop!'" After these awful words, the sultan could do no less than sign the treaty. We are indebted for Labuan, therefore, less to Rajah Brooke's "mode of operation," than to the energetic eloquence of Bobo Chop.

*Memorandum of dates of Brooke's progress, and successive attacks
on the Sarebas and Sakarran Dyaks.*

1839. August 15. Brooke arrived at Sarawak.—See *Keppel*, vol. i., p. 28.
 1841. Sept. 24. Became Rajah of Sarawak.—*Id.* i., 252.
 1843. June 11. With the Sarawak and Sow Dyaks, assisted by the boats
 of H. M. S. *Dido*, attacked the Sarebas Dyaks.
 —*Id.* ii., 48.
 „ 12. Captured and burnt Dyak town of Paddi, on the
 Sarebas river.—*Mundy*, i., 350.
 „ 14. Destroyed Paku, another Dyak town on same river.—*Id.*
 „ 17. Took, by assault, Rembas, another Dyak town on same
 river.—*Id.*
 1844. August 7. With the Sarawak Dyaks, assisted by the boats of
 H. M. S. *Dido*, and of E. I. Co.'s Steamer
 Phlegethon, stormed and took the Dyak forts and
 villages at Patusen.—*Keppel*, ii., 89.
 „ 8. Continued burning and destroying Patusen.—*Id.* 92.
 „ 9. Completed same.—*Id.*
 „ 10. Having destroyed every boat, house and hut at Patu-
 sen, started for the Sakarran country.—*Id.* 93.
 „ 12. Plundered and burnt Dyak town of Serif Muller.—
 Id. 99.
 „ 14. “Looted” [plundered] Dyak villages; more fight-
 ing, Lieutenant Wade of *Dido* killed, and another
 Dyak village destroyed.—*Id.* 101, 104.
 „ 17. Proceeded up the Sakarran river.—*Id.* 107.
 19. Attacked the Sakarran Dyaks, Mr. George Steward
 killed.—*Id.* 111.
 Nov. 1. Appointed British agent at Borneo.
 1845. Oct. 24. Despatched his Sarawak Dyaks against the Sakarran
 Dyaks.—*Mundy*, ii., 57.
 1847. March 16. Accredited to the Sultan and independent Chiefs of
 Borneo, as Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner
 and Consul-General,
 Qui les croque, qui les tue,
 Qui les gobe, à son plaisir.
 Oct. 1. Arrived in England.—*Mundy*, ii., 367.

1847. Nov. 27. Appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Labuan and its dependencies.—*London Gazette*.
1849. Feb. 17. Arrived at Sarawak, and prepared to attack the Sakarran Dyaks.—*Singapore Paper*.
- March — Left Sarawak on a fruitless preliminary expedition against them.—*Id*.
- „ 25. With 35 prahus of his own savages, and with the boats of the *Nemesis* steamer, went on an "operation" which was only partially successful. The natives having fled inland, prevented Brooke and his savages from "*playing the same game*" (to use a Brooke expression) as on another occasion; and they were, in the absence of the inhabitants, obliged to return contented with the minor pastime of destroying 8 Sarebas villages, and burning 40 tons of paddy.—*Id*.
- July 31. The latest massacre, of which any advices have as yet been received.
- Aug. 4, and succeeding days.—Paku, a town on the Sarebas river, destroyed; several villages plundered; Kenowit "*fined*."

ACT 6 GEO. IV., c. 49.

An Act for Encouraging the Capture or Destruction
of Piratical Ships and Vessels.

[22nd June, 1825.]

Whereas it is expedient to give encouragement to the commanders, officers, and crews of His Majesty's ships of war and hired armed ships to attack and destroy any ships, vessels, or boats, manned by pirates or persons *engaged in acts* of piracy: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act there shall be paid by the treasurer of His Majesty's Navy, upon bills to be made forth by the Commissioners of the Navy, to be paid according to the course thereof, without fee or reward, unto the officers, seamen, marines, soldiers, and others, who shall have been actually on board any of His Majesty's ships or vessels of war, or hired armed ships, at the actual taking, sinking, burning, or otherwise destroying of any ship, vessel, or boat, manned by pirates, or persons *engaged in acts* of piracy, since the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and twenty, the sum of *twenty* pounds for each and every such piratical person, either taken and secured or killed during the attack on such piratical vessel, and the sum of *five* pounds for each

and every other man of the crew not taken or killed, who shall have been alive on board such pirate vessel at the beginning of the attack thereof; the numbers of such piratical men respectively to be *proved by the ship's papers* taken on board such piratical ship, vessel, or boat, verified by the oaths of two or more of the persons who shall have found and taken possession of such papers, or by such other *evidence* as under the circumstances of the case shall, by the judge of the High Court of Admiralty, or *by the judge* of any other court authorised to take cognizance of such matter, be deemed *sufficient proof* thereof.

2. And for the more speedy distribution of such reward payable in respect of pirates or pirate vessels, taken or destroyed in *distant parts*; be it further enacted, that when and so soon as the amount of the bounty so to be paid, and the numbers of men in respect of whom it shall be payable, shall have been *ascertained in manner aforesaid*, it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioner of the Navy resident at any of His Majesty's dockyards abroad, or in the absence of a Commissioner of the Navy, for the naval officer and store-keeper, or if there shall be no such commissioner or naval officer, then for the Commander-in-Chief or senior officer of His Majesty's ships and vessels at *the port or place into which the piratical ship, vessel, or boat shall be taken to be proceeded against*, or in case of the destruction of the vessel, the place into which the piratical persons seized shall be carried, to draw upon the Commissioners of the Navy a bill or bills at thirty days' sight for the amount of such bounty, which bill or bills shall, upon the said commissioners *being satisfied* of the correctness and amount thereof by the

production to them *of the proof* herein-before required, be by them assigned for payment on the treasurer of the Navy, and when paid be charged as an imprest on the person so drawing the same; and that all bills so to be made out by the Commissioners of the Navy, or to be drawn upon them as aforesaid, shall be made payable to such person or persons as shall be authorised and appointed agents for the *appraisement and sales of such piratical ships or boats* in respect of which such bounty shall be payable, or for the receipt of such bounty only, in case such piratical ships, vessels, or boats shall have been sunk, burnt, or destroyed, in like manner as by an Act made in the forty-fifth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for the Encouragement of Seamen, and for the better and more effectually manning His Majesty's Navy during the present War," was directed with respect to the appointment of agents for the appraisement and sale of prizes taken from the enemy; and that the same bounty shall be paid, distributed, and divided by such authorised and appointed agent or agents, to and amongst such persons, and in such manner, form, and proportion as His Majesty, his heirs or successors, by any order or orders in council for that purpose, shall think fit to declare and direct.

3. And be it further enacted, That if any ship, vessel, boat, goods, merchandise, or other property found and taken in the possession of pirates, shall be duly proved in and adjudged by Court of Admiralty or other court having competent jurisdiction therein to have belonged to and to have been taken from any of his Majesty's subjects, then

such ship, vessel, boat, goods, merchandise, and other property, and every part thereof so proved, shall by the decree of the said court be adjudged to be restored, and shall be accordingly restored to the former owner or owners, proprietor or proprietors thereof respectively, he or they paying for or in lieu of salvage a sum of money equal to one-eighth part of the true value of such ship, vessel, boat, goods, merchandise, and other property respectively; which money shall be paid to and divided and distributed amongst such persons, and in such manner, form, and proportion as shall by any proclamation or order of his Majesty in Council be directed for the distribution of the produce of any ship, vessel, boat, goods, or other property of pirates.

4. And be it further enacted, That no person or persons who shall desert from any of his Majesty's ships or hired armed vessels, or otherwise from his Majesty's service, shall be entitled to receive any proportion of bounty money, salvage, or other monies payable by virtue of this Act; but that the shares of all such persons, as well as all other shares which shall not be legally demanded within the times prescribed by the said Act of the forty-fifth year of his late Majesty's reign for the demand of prize money, shall be paid over to the treasurer of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, within such times, in such manner, and to and for such uses and purposes, and subject to such provisions, regulations, and exceptions, as in the said Act is mentioned with respect to prize money.

5. And be it further enacted, That all and every person and persons who shall be so nominated and appointed agent or agents as aforesaid, for the appraisement and sale of any piratical ships, vessels, or boats taken by any of His Majesty's ships or vessels, or hired armed ships, or for the distribution of the bounty money by this Act given, shall exhibit and cause to be registered their letter or letters of attorney in the respective courts wherein the proceedings touching the vessels so taken, or touching such bounty or salvage, shall be had; and all such agents shall be subject to such forfeitures and disqualifications for not registering the same as in and by the said Act of the forty-fifth of his late Majesty's reign are enacted and provided.

ACT 1 VICT., c. 88.

An Act to amend certain Acts relating to the Crime
of Piracy.

[17th July, 1837.]

Whereas it is expedient to amend so much of an Act passed in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, intituled "For Pirates," and so much of an Act passed in the eleventh and twelfth years of the

reign of King William the Third, intituled "An Act for the more effectual Suppression of Piracy," and so much of an Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of King George the First, intituled "An Act for the further preventing Robbery, Burglary, and other Felonies, and for the more effectual Transportation of Felons and unlawful Exporters of Wool, and for declaring the Law upon some points relating to Pirates," and so much of an Act passed in the eighth year of the same reign, intituled "An Act for the more effectual suppressing of Piracy," and so much of an Act passed in the eighteenth year of the reign of King George the Second, intituled "An Act to amend an Act made in the eleventh year of the reign of King William the Third, intituled 'An Act for the more effectual Suppression of Piracy,'" as relates to the punishment of the crime of Piracy, or of any offence by any of the said Acts declared to be Piracy, or of accessaries thereto respectively: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That so much of the said several Acts as is herein-before referred to shall from and after the commencement of this Act be and the same is hereby repealed.

2. And be it enacted, That from and after the commencement of this Act whosoever, with intent to commit or *at the time of or immediately before or immediately after committing* the crime of piracy in respect of any ship or vessel, *shall assault, with intent to murder,* any person being on board of or belonging to such ship or vessel, or shall stab,

cut, or wound any such person, or unlawfully do any act by which the life of such person may be endangered, shall be guilty of felony, and *being convicted* thereof shall suffer death as a felon.

3. And be it enacted, That from and after the commencement of this Act whosoever shall be convicted of any offence which by any of the Acts herein-before referred to amounts to the crime of piracy, and is thereby made punishable with death, shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, *to be transported* beyond the seas for the term of the *natural life* of such offender, *or for any term* not less than *fifteen years*, or to be *imprisoned* for any term not exceeding *three years*.

4. And be it enacted, That in the case of every felony punishable under this Act every principal in the second degree and every accessory before the fact shall be punishable with death or otherwise in the same manner as the principal in the first degree is by this Act punishable; and every accessory after the fact to any felony punishable under this Act shall, on conviction, be liable to be *imprisoned* for any term *not exceeding two years*.

5. And be it enacted, That where any person shall be convicted of any offence punishable under this Act for which imprisonment may be awarded, it shall be lawful for the court to sentence the offender to be imprisoned, or imprisoned and kept to hard labour, in the common gaol or House of Correction, and also to direct that the offender shall be kept in solitary confinement for any portion or

portions of such imprisonment, or of such imprisonment with hard labour, not exceeding one month at any one time, and not exceeding three months in any one year, as to the court in its discretion shall seem meet.

6. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to the alteration or repeal of any of the powers, provisions, or regulations contained in an Act made and passed in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for effecting greater Uniformity of Practice in the Government of the several Prisons in England and Wales, and for appointing Inspectors of Prisons in Great Britain," or in an Act made and passed in the fourth year of his Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws relating to the building, repairing, and regulating of certain Gaols and Houses of Correction in England and Wales."

7. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall commence and take effect on the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

